

NOTICE BOARD

APQN Academic Conference 2023 was held at AIUB

The three-day APQN Academic Conference 2023 has ended at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) on November 4. In the last day, there were two keynote speeches and four parallel sessions where the researchers discussed the quality of transformative teaching-learning, blended education, digital quality assurance and university-industry linkages.

The first keynote speaker, Jan Friis, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs at Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), USA, focused on



the scope and challenges of quality of transformative learning and shared the experience of CHEA. The second

keynote speaker, Prof. Dr Olgun Cicek, board director of INQAAHE and member of international advisory council of

CHEA, discussed the importance of internationalisation.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni, MP, was the Chief Guest and delivered her message virtually. She elaborated the activities undertaken by the Bangladeshi government to ensure quality education in higher education.

The Special Guest, Prof. Dr Md. Abu Taher, Member of UGC, explained the role of UGC to maintain quality education. Dr Timur Kanapyanov, the APQN Board director, expressed his gratitude to AIUB for overall support.

UGC and the British Council signs Operational Alliance Agreement

Continuing a meaningful partnership to enhance the quality of education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh and the British Council signed the Operational Alliance Agreement on October 31. The partnership reinforces the two entities' mutual dedication to strengthen and elevate the higher education (HE) sector in Bangladesh.

British Council's Going Global Partnerships (GGP) aims to foster strategic, mutually beneficial, and equitable partnerships in tertiary education between the UK and other nations. This programme encourages partnerships among universities, colleges, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to bolster HE and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems, promote research collaboration, internationalise institutions, enhance student outcomes, advance gender equality, and support inclusion.

Building upon over 50 prior British Council projects that supported Higher Education and TVET partnerships globally. In Bangladesh, under the GGP, the British Council, in collaboration with the UGC, is dedicated to enhancing the higher education sector's teaching and learning capacity, exemplified by the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Teaching and

Learning (CETL) units.

UGC and the British Council have fortified their partnership with yet another agreement that emphasises teaching and learning practices in the higher education institutes in the country. Under the Operational Alliance Agreement, a series of initiatives will be launched, focusing on improving the HE sector across the country. One of the key elements of this agreement is Teaching Excellence Programme (TEP) which has been designed to develop the



capacity of HE faculty members focussing on practical approaches and leadership strategies for teaching and learning, student-centred teaching and learning and authentic assessment in higher education. Professional development of early career researchers; enhancing the English skills of university faculty members; development of a leadership programme for HE

sector leaders; facilitating the academic partnerships in HE sector between Bangladesh and UK are also some other areas on this agreement.

Tom Miscioscia, Director Bangladesh, British Council, and Dr Ferdous Zaman, Secretary of the UGC, signed the Higher Education Operational Alliance Agreement.

Tom Miscioscia said, "Through our long-standing partnership with the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, the British Council is committed to supporting the development of higher education in Bangladesh. The Going Global Partnerships programme aims to cultivate academic collaborations between the UK and Bangladesh and to foster joint course development, faculty exchange, and research initiatives."

Prof. Dr Muhammed Alamgir, Chairman (Additional charge) & Member, UGC said, "UGC's mission and vision are deeply rooted in our dedication to advancing the higher education landscape in Bangladesh. Our journey has been guided by a vision of creating a higher education system that not only provides access to all but also uphold the highest standards of excellence and we are happy to have the British Council with us on this journey as a trusted partner."

ICPC Asia Dhaka Regional Contest 2023 held at BUBT



Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) organised the Asia Dhaka Regional Contest of the International Collegiate Programming Competition (ICPC). The competition was inaugurated on November 3. On November 4, the final onsite competition was concluded.

President of the Executive Committee of ICPC Asia Dhaka Regional Contest 2023 and BUBT Pro VC Prof. Dr Md. Ali Noor said, "The organisation of this prestigious programming contest in the world has been completed by the initiative of the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) department of the university."

On October 13, the online preliminary competition of 2461 teams from 138 colleges and universities of Bangladesh was completed. Based on the online preliminary competition, 224 teams from 130 colleges and universities were selected for the final competition.

The competition was inaugurated by Deputy Minister of Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, M.P. Distinguished professor, physicist, and fiction author Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D. was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony.

7th IHSA International Conference on Humanitarianism in Changing Climates begins at NSU

The 7th IHSA International Conference on Humanitarianism in Changing Climates commenced on November 5 at North South University (NSU). Organised jointly by the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA) and the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), NSU, the three-day conference brings together experts and scholars to explore the complex interplay between humanitarianism, climate change, and global challenges.

The conference features keynote addresses by renowned experts, including Prof. Dorothea Hilhorst, President of IHSA and Professor at the International Institute for Social Studies, Erasmus University, and Prof. Mizan R. Khan, Deputy Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

Prof. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director of CPS & SIPG and Chair, Dept. of Department of Political Science and Sociology (PSS), NSU, gave the



introductory speech and moderated the inaugural session. Dr Bulbul Siddiqi, Associate Professor, Dept. of PSS, NSU, Member of CPS & Director, Confucius Institute, NSU gave the welcome speech.

"In today's complex world, studying humanitarianism is more crucial than ever. We must understand the intricate interplay between humanitarian action, policy, and the broader context in which they operate," stated Prof. Hilhorst.

Professor Mizan R. Khan emphasised, "Adaptation is not just a saying, but a critical imperative in our changing climate. Locally led adaptation efforts and addressing loss and damage are central to building resilience in vulnerable communities."